

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 STR-07 /113 W
-----029977 011230Z /45

R 010728Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0042

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13820

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA TO CALL EXTRAORDINARY
DIET SESSION IN SEPTEMBER

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1. IN TWO PUBLIC APPEARANCES THIS PAST WEEKEND, PRIME
MINISTER FUKUDA DROPPED BROADER THAN USUAL HINTS, TAKEN
AS SIGNALLING FIRM DECISION, THAT HE PLANNED TO CALL EX-
TRAORDINARY DIET SESSION TO ACT ON SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET
AS WELL AS OTHER UNSPECIFIED MEASURES TO STIMULATE ECONOMY
SOON AFTER HIS RETURN FROM MID-EAST TRIP ON SEPTEMBER 13.
JULY 26 MEETING OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
HAS ALSO FORMALLY DECIDED TO COMPILE BUDGET FOR CABINET
ACTION ON SEPTEMBER 2. (IT IS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT
DIET SESSION WILL OPEN EITHER ON SEPTEMBER 18 OR SEPTEMBER
20.)

2. WHILE FUKUDA AND LDP SEC-GEN OHIRA ARE STILL OUTWARDLY
MAINTAINING POLITICAL TRUCE NOT TO CAMPAIGN OPENLY FOR
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LDP PRESIDENCY, FUKUDA'S CLOSE ASSOCIATES CONTINUE TO
INSIST THAT SOMETIME DURING EXTRAORDINARY SESSION PRIME
MINISTER WILL DISSOLVE DIET AND CALL LOWER HOUSE ELECTION.
OHIRA FACTION STALWARTS, MOST OPPOSITION PARTY AND LABOR
LEADERS AND OUR MEDIA CONTACTS MAINTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT
DIET DISSOLUTION EARLY THIS FALL IS SIMPLY NOT IN THE
CARDS. THEY CONTINUE TO POINT TO STRONG OPPOSITION FROM

SEVERAL KEY CABINET MEMBERS, LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR ELECTION ON PART OF LDP INCUMBENTS IN LOWER HOUSE (WHO HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE LESS THAN TWO YEARS) AND RELATIVELY LITTLE IN WAY OF POLITICAL FUNDS FLOWING FROM BUSINESS COMMUNITY (WHICH REGARDS ELECTION AS LIKELY TO DIVERT GOJ'S ATTENTION FROM MEASURES FURTHER TO STIMULATE ECONOMY). FUKUDA HIMSELF HAS PROBABLY NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND ON WHETHER OR HOW TO DISSOLVE THE DIET. MEDIA, HOWEVER, WITH LITTLE ELSE TO WRITE ABOUT ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL FRONT EXCEPT FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRC, CAN BE EXPECTED IN COMING MONTH TO INDULGE IN BARRAGE OF SPECULATIVE STORIES ABOUT PRIME MINISTER'S GENERAL ELECTION PLANS. MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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